

February 17, 2017

State of CT Appropriations Committee:

The staff and Board of the Putnam Public Library are very dismayed to hear about the possible elimination of the borrowIT CT (Connecticard) funding and statute. No single library in Connecticut is able to fulfil the educational and recreational needs of their community by themselves because of the economic and space limitations. borrowIT CT enables the patrons in Connecticut to be able to visit other libraries to meet their needs, as every library has a different "flavor" with book and magazine collections that reflect their community's special individuality. Without the .20 per item reimbursement some towns and cities will probably close their collections to residents of other towns. Economically speaking the .20 per item reimbursement is much less than the cost of an interlibrary loan (\$1.05 minimum). The spirit of cooperation and collaboration has been ingrained in the library world for many years, and an educated public is the result of our efforts.

Public libraries in Connecticut have been crippled in recent years by the pulling back of support from the State (defunding the Annual State Grant, budget decreases for CT State Library, inadequate delivery system, lack of a state catalog). Each loss makes it more difficult for our public libraries to offer the excellent service that Connecticut communities deserve. The public library is the only organization in every municipality that aims to serve the whole community, and the possibility of losing borrowIT CT makes us very uneasy for the future.

Please support your public libraries and continue to fund and keep the borrowIT CT program alive.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Colwell, Library Director
Putnam Public Library
Putnam, CT